

on the property under the direction of Administrator Snyder Turner. The home has always been funded entirely by generous private funding from churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals dedicated to giving children in need a second chance.

The Calvary Children's Home presently houses 26 children, and has housed more than 400 children since first opening its doors 33 years ago. The center is a nonprofit, charitable organization providing long-term residential care for children who are victims of broken homes, abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The majority of its residents are brothers and sisters who otherwise would have been separated from each other and placed into separate homes through the foster care system.

The Calvary Children's Home is an excellent example of private individuals reaching out and making a difference in the lives of our youth, without public mandates or tax dollars. It speaks well of Georgia's Seventh District that such an organization can survive. I wish Administrator Turner, the staff, residents, and donors well in continuing their commitments to love, spiritual values, and improving the lives of our young people.

IN HONOR OF YOLANDA'S ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE ON ITS 25TH ANNUAL RECITAL AND ITS FOUNDER, MS. YOLANDA FERNANDEZ-QUINCOCES

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance on the celebration of its 25th Annual Recital and its founder, Ms. Yolanda Fernandez-Quincoces, for her many accomplishments. She has made every effort to provide a forum in which the young people of Hudson County, and particularly of Union City, NJ, are able to express their interest in the arts.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ms. Fernandez demonstrated tremendous artistic ability at a very young age. After moving to the United States with her family, Ms. Fernandez begun taking lessons in ballet and piano at the age of five. She continued her training at the New Jersey Ballet, Oneida's Dance Studio, and the American Ballet Theater, where she also excelled in Flamenco dance and piano while attending classes with renowned leaders in the fields of study.

Ms. Fernandez, since receiving her bachelor's degree in Music Education from New York University, has served as a music and dance educator at the Woodrow Wilson School for the Integrated Arts in my hometown of Union City, NJ, where she is known for her remarkable commitment to her student's education.

Ms. Fernandez has demonstrated her dedication to the arts and education through her involvement in such associations as the Dance Educators of America, the Dance Masters of America, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and the National Education Asso-

ciation. Her participation in the advancement of the arts includes making personal appearances at the New Jersey Opera and on various television broadcasts. In addition, she produced and hosted her own television program called "Art Beat."

Ms. Fernandez's artistic contributions to the community and her unwavering commitment to promoting the arts in our schools have not gone unnoticed. In 1996, she was named "Teacher of the Year" by Union City, Hudson County, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey. In 1996 and 1997, she received the prestigious "Outstanding Choreographer" Award from the Dance Educators of America in New York City.

In recognition of Ms. Fernandez's impassioned devotion to promoting the arts in our schools and communities, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her, as well as Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance, on this occasion, the 25th Annual Recital, and wishing Ms. Fernandez continued success in her endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT ALBERT M. ROMANO, JR.

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senior Master Sergeant Albert M. Romano, Jr., one of 12 U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"Buddy" Romano hails from Oxnard, California, in my district, where he starred in varsity football and baseball at Santa Clara High School and was ranked 32nd in California for motocross racing.

He married his high school sweetheart, the former Jennifer Suytar, also of Oxnard. The couple now have three children, 12-year-old Tyler, 9-year-old Megan, and 5-year-old Zachary, who must be very proud of their father for all he has achieved.

The Outstanding Airmen Award program began in 1956 during the Air Force Association's national convention as a way to highlight an Air Force military manpower crisis at the time. It proved so popular that it became an official Air Force award the following year.

Competition for Airman of the Year is strenuous. Nominations are sent from each command, separate operating agency, direct reporting unit, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to the Air Force Manpower Personnel Center. A high-ranking selection board narrows the field, then the final selections are validated and approved by the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff.

The criteria for this honor is "unique, unusual, or outstanding individual involvement and achievement within the preceding 12 months." Selection considerations include: superior general job performance; job knowledge and leadership qualities applied to a specific Air Force problem or situation; development of new techniques or procedures resulting in increased mission effectiveness; noteworthy self-improvement through on- or off-duty edu-

cational studies, participation in professional or cultural societies/associations, or development of creative abilities; participation in social, cultural, or religious activities in the military and/or civilian community which contribute directly or indirectly to community or group welfare, morale, or status; other significant achievements on- or off-duty which by their nature or results clearly distinguish the Airman from others of equal or higher grade; Air Force or civilian awards in recognition of personal service or contribution; and demonstrated ability as an articulate and positive Air Force spokesperson.

Buddy Romano must have been an easy selection.

He joined the Air Force in 1981 and quickly established himself as an outstanding airman. In 1983, he was named NCO of the Year. In 1984, he earned the Distinguished Graduate Award from the 15th Air Force NCO Leadership School at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. He maintained a 96 percent fully mission capable rating during his first year—his unit's highest—as Dedicated Crew Chief at the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. In 1987, he served in Operation Desert Storm. In 1988, he earned the NCO of the Year for the 548th Aircraft Generation Squadron, while maintaining a place on the Dean's List for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. In 1992, he earned his degree in Aircraft Maintenance from the Community College of the Air Force.

Somehow, he has free time. Buddy has filled it by coaching or umpiring during almost every intramural varsity, high school, or youth basketball and baseball season since he became an airman. He has volunteered countless hours to the Equal Opportunity and Treatment Program, Anglo American sports day, Special Olympics, Arrive Alive Program, Toys for Tots Program, Top Three events, and countless other Air Force-sponsored events.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, with two clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with five oak leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of recently meeting with Senior Master Sergeant and Jennifer Romano. They serve as a model for military couples, dedicating their lives to their family and their country. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Albert M. Romano, Jr., for earning the respect and gratitude of his peers, his officers, and his country.

RECOGNIZING BORUNDA INC. AND PLAZA VENTANA RESTAURANT

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Borunda as President and CEO of Borunda Inc., along with